

TO: Secure Recovery Residence team/ planning participants

FROM: Anne Donahue     DATE: 6/6/09

RE: Outdoor Recreation area

For the sake of those of us thinking about adequate outdoor recreation space without the benefit of a “to scale” mental picture of what can be encompassed in a given square footage of area, as well as what can be within the scope of reasonable supervision, I gathered some tools this weekend for an overview. This included:

**Measurements and visual review** of the area of the former tennis courts and grassy area beyond at *Second Spring*, used this past weekend for: cookout with tent and open areas with tables/chairs; horseshoes; basketball ½ court; golf; croquet. The total area there is approximately 120' wide by 240' deep [about 30,000 square feet.]

**Dimensions** from Internet to identify scales of the following areas:

Football field: 360' x 160'

Soccer field: 100' x 60'

Softball/kickball diamond: 60' square; with outfield and sideline areas: 150' foot corner

Volleyball court: 60' x 30'

Shuffleboard: 60' x 10'

Basketball: Junior high full court: 74' x 42' [thus ½ court basketball about 40' x 40']

**Assumptions/ideas I used:**

1. the size of a football field, at about 60,000, exceeds the scope for reasonable supervision
2. there should be one level area large enough for multi-use capacity for active sports such as kickball/softball; soccer; frisbee and volleyball
3. there should be a dedicated (preferably paved) area for ½ court basketball
4. there should be a dedicated picnic area large enough to include several tables under a shelter and several in the open
5. there should be an “unstructured” area with plantings, benches, etc
6. there should be a jogging trail
7. there should be a dedicated area for gardening/ vegetable garden

In a rough draft, I placed a multipurpose field against the back end, at approx 160' x 160'

In the left front, I placed a 40' x 40' basketball court (a shuffleboard court could be adjacent to it)

In the right front, I placed a 20' x 30' picnic area (room for grill, shelter, tables)

Behind the picnic area and before the multipurpose field, along the right side, I placed a 20' x 30' area for a vegetable garden

In the center front area, about 80' x 50' is left as unstructured space

The jogging trail runs around the outside of the multi-purpose field and weaves in behind the basketball court, in front of the open space, and along the inner side of the picnic area and garden. Its full length is about 650', or about 2/3rds of the distance around a football field.

**The space required** to include these features as drafted would be about 180' x 220', just under 40,000 square feet (2/3rds of a football field).

***This amounts to the same square footage dimensions as drafted in the BGS site criteria (which lists 200' x 200', or 40,000 sq ft total), which therefore seems to be on target for size for a good outdoor recreation area with a variety of activity spaces.***